
GRANT POLICY

WARE TOWN
COUNCIL



What's in the Policy:

Ware Town Council is committed to following best practice in grant giving in order to provide sustainable funding to voluntary and community groups.

The Town Council's criteria for giving grants are as follows:

- To promote and encourage sports, leisure and cultural facilities.
- To encourage and support local organisations.
- To stimulate and encourage the concept of tourism and to foster civic pride.

Adopted
13th March 2023

Review
September 2025

For more information please contact:
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Ware Town Council is funded by the residents of Ware, subject to funds being available the Town Council may provide financial support to community organisations working in Ware for the benefit of the community, whilst providing value for money for local taxpayers and ensuring that public money is spent in a responsible manner.

The level of funding available may vary each year dependent on the Councils budget.

Ware Town Council is committed to following best practice in grant giving in order to provide sustainable funding and support to voluntary and community groups, the Town Council defines a voluntary group as a non-profit making organisation, set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee.

In order for this Council to be able to assess applications rationally and objectively, it is both necessary and helpful to assess all applications received against a range of criteria.

In general, the following principles apply:

Assistance will be given on the basis of need, merit and contribution to the local community. Applicants must clearly show how any assistance given will benefit the people living in Ware or will benefit the environment of Ware.

Any assistance given will be subject to ongoing monitoring and subsequent evaluation of the outcome of the grant.

Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year to year basis. Grant may be provided for revenue or capital projects, core or project costs.

The Aims of the Council's Grant Making Policy:

To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities. To help the Town's voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness.

To ensure the provision of services, needed by the Town's residents, via the voluntary sector. To support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.

To ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all Ware residents to the services it provides and funds.

To improve or enhance the local environment. To achieve value for money.

The Grants Process

To apply for a Town Council grant you must be a charity, community group or local voluntary organisation with a constitution and dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community in Ware. All funding requests for amounts over £250 must use our application form and applicants should provide all information requested. Grants of up to £1000.00 can be approved following a review and a decision by a panel of Officers made up of the Town Clerk, Finance Manager and Events Manager. Anything over £1000.00 will need to be approved at a Council meeting.

Criteria for approval of grant requests

Adherence to our grants process and meeting the requirements of our grant giving policy. Level of benefit to Ware and the impact the grant will make.

Evidence of a well-managed group including previous experience and track record.

Financial sustainability and viability of group and/or project.

Evidence of partnership working.

Evidence that funding has been sought from other sources and the level of match funding available.

Evidence of compliance with previous grant award conditions.

Ware Town Council will not fund the following:

Organisations that do not provide a service to the community in Ware.

Individuals or appeals supporting an individual.

General appeals.

Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding.

Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs.

Religious groups where funding is to be used to promote religious beliefs. Arts & sports projects with no community or charitable element.

Medical research or treatment.

Projects that may take place before an application can be decided.

Equipment or other costs that have already been purchased or incurred prior to the application being considered.

Grant Types Ware

Small grants

These grants are usually for less than £250 and are normally offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project, event, activity or the purchase of equipment. They are also open to new groups wishing to start up and receive a small contribution towards their running costs.

Small grants must be spent within 1 year of award. Any unspent monies left after this time must be returned.

Revenue grants

These grants are available to community organisations which provide a significant service to the community. They are given to support the groups' normal running costs and can also be used for match funding to other funding bodies. In principal revenue grant funding can be awarded for up to 3 years. These grants are dependent on an annual review when the continuation of the grant will be considered in respect of any change in the circumstances of either the applicant or the Town Council. Groups wishing to receive a revenue grant need to complete an application form and provide additional supporting information. Groups requesting a revenue grant are requested to submit an application by the end of October for payment in the following financial year commencing in April. Where the Council are no longer able to support a funding request this will be advised by the end of December. A council representative may hold a meeting with the group to discuss its needs and the level of Town Council support requested. Groups in receipt of a revenue grant will need to complete an annual monitoring form and may be asked to attend a review meeting to ensure that funding continues to meet the Town Council's priorities.

Urgent grants

In exceptional circumstances Ware Town Council will consider applications for urgent funding. Groups wishing to apply must complete an application form which will be considered at the next available full council meeting. A covering letter should explain the reason for urgency. Grant application forms can be downloaded from the Council's website or are available from the Clerk's office.

Payments and decisions

All applicants will usually be notified of Council's decision following the meeting. Payment Timetable Successful applicants for grants will normally receive their award four to six weeks after the decision was approved by the Council. In some circumstances the payment date(s) may differ and this will be set out in the grant award confirmation letter. Grants will be paid by cheque, or bank transfer made out to the named organisation.

